Care of mentally-ill patients

1600. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seventh disability as listed in the Disability Act of 1995, is mental illness and neither his Ministry nor the Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities has any clue about its role in the care and management of mentally-ill patients;

(b) if so, whether under this Act there are various ways in which a mentally handicapped persons can be gainfully employed but little efforts have been made in this direction;

(c) whether Central Coordination Committee, which is supposed to review and coordinate all activities has not met since November, 1998; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) "Mental Illness" has been recognized as a disability under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Mental Health Act, 1987 containing provisions for care and treatment of mentally ill persons is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare while the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment supports voluntary organizations in undertaking rehabilitation programmes for the cured mentally ill. Voluntary organizations also run programmes for imparting vocational training to the mentally handicapped and run shelter workshops for them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.